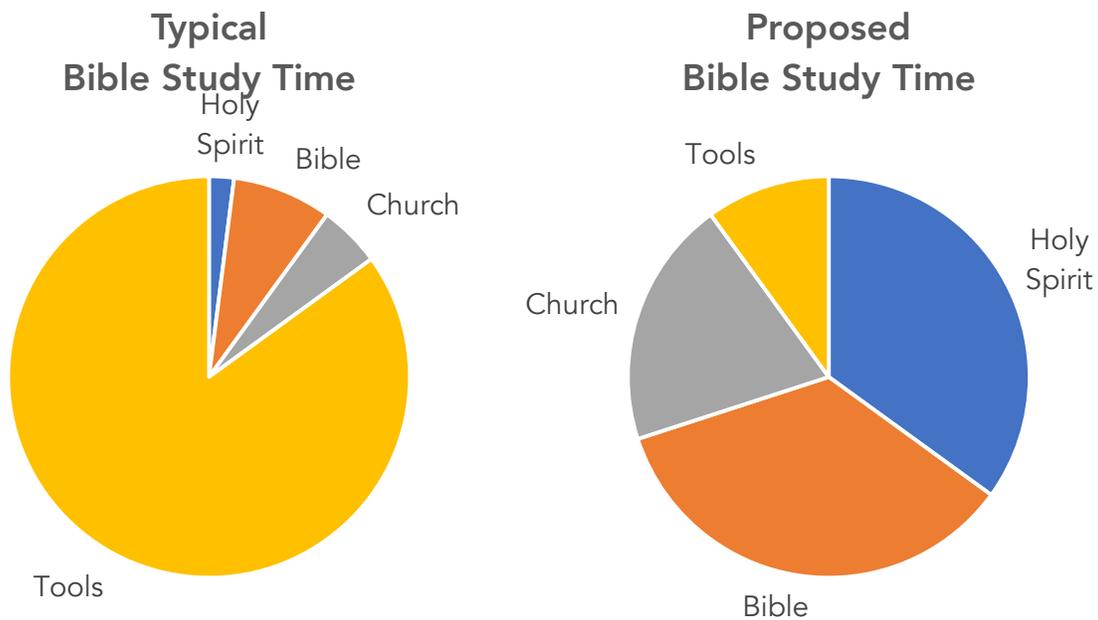


# Romans

Gifts of Grace ([Romans 12:3-8](#))

## Introduction

A gentle review: **Did we do this?** Spend more time with God and His Word than with anyone and anything else.



Our approach each week will be REAP (read, explain, apply, personalize).

Here's our outline of the book of [Romans](#) (summarized from the ESV's outline):

- ✓ Paul's Introduction & Righteousness Introduced ([1:1-17](#)) (three weeks)
- ✓ Righteous Wrath ([1:18-3:20](#)) (six weeks)
- ✓ Saving Righteousness ([3:21-4:25](#)) (three weeks)
- ✓ Righteous Freedom ([5:1-8:39](#)) (11 weeks)
- ✓ Righteousness → Jews ([9:1-11:36](#)) (eight weeks)
- 6. Righteous Living ([12:1-15:13](#)) (September to October) (nine weeks)
- 7. Paul's Closing ([15:14-16:23](#)) (November to early December) (five weeks)
- 8. Righteousness Summarized ([16:25-27](#)) (December & wrap up) (two weeks)

Today's text ([Romans 12:3-8](#)) is the second part of this major section.

## A Living Sacrifice (12:1-2)

**1** I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. **2** Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

## Read: Gifts of Grace (12:3-8)

**3** For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. **4** For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, **5** so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. **6** Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; **7** if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; **8** the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

## Explain: Gifts of Grace (12:3-8)

Bible study is asking and answering questions about the text. Let's ask some questions.

### Are there any literary/structural observations?

Today's text is the output of the input of last week's text of being conformed. If we're not conformed to last week's commands, we're not going to be living out the gifts as we should. These are connected thoughts. Context matters.

FYI on MEA CULPA on "genetic Jews"—more details on that next week when I have the prior words (verbal and visual) corrected/amended. When I do, you'll see the page numbers change since I'm also taking out the longer readings from the teacher notes.

### What do the words mean?

**3** For by **[dia]** the grace [*charis*; graciousness, acceptable, benefit, favor, gift, gracious, grace, joy, liberality, pleasure, thanks, thankworthy; same word used multiple times in **Romans**] given [aorist middle participle] to me I say [*lego*; present active indicative] to everyone among [present middle participle] you not to think of himself more highly [present active infinitive; to esteem oneself over much, be vain or arrogant, think more highly] than he ought [present active indicative; necessary, what must be met; same word used in **Romans 1:27; 8:26**] to think [*phroneo*; present active infinitive; set the

affection on, mind, regard, savor, think; used as part of a compound word in **Romans 11:20**, **but to think** [present active infinitive; exercise the mind, entertain or have a sentiment or opinion, mentally disposed, interest oneself, set the affection on, be careful, mind, regard, savor, think; same word used in **Romans 8:5**] **with sober judgment** [present active infinitive; be of sound mind, **sane**, moderate, be in right mind, be sober minded, soberly], **each according to the measure** [**metron**; measure, meter, limited portion, degree] **of faith** [*pistis*] **that God has assigned** [aorist active indicative; part, apportion, bestow, share, disunite, differ, deal, be difference between, distribute, divide, give part]. **4 For as in one body we have** [present active indicative] **many members** [limbs, members], **and the members** [limbs, members] **do not all have** [present active indicative] **the same function** [deeds, offices, works; same word used in **Romans 8:13**], **5 so we, though many, are** [present middle indicative] **one body in Christ, and individually members** [limbs, members] **one of another.** **6 Having** [present active participle] **gifts** [gratuity, deliverance, endowment, qualification; same word as used in **Romans 1:11; 5:15, 16; 6:23**] **that differ** [varying, surpassing, differing, divers, more excellent] **according to the grace** [*charis*] **given** [aorist middle participle] **to us, let us use them: if prophecy** [prophecy, prediction, prophesying], **in proportion to our faith** [*pistis*]; **7 if service** [*diakonia*; ministering, ministraton, ministry, office, relief, relief, service, servicing; same word used in **Romans 11:13**], **in our serving** [*diakonia*; ministering, ministraton, ministry, office, relief, relief, service, servicing; same word used in **Romans 11:13**; earlier in **12:7**]; **the one who teaches** [present active participle; teach], **in his teaching** [instruction, doctrine, learning, teaching]; **8 the one who exhorts** [*parakaleo*; present active participle; call near, invite, invoke, beseech, call for, comfort, desire, exhort, intreat, pray; same word used in **Romans 12:1**], **in his exhortation** [*paraklesis*; imploration, hortation, solace, comfort, consolation, exhortation, intreaty]; **the one who contributes** [present active participle; give over, share, give, impart; same word used in **Romans 1:11**], **in generosity** [singleness, sincerity (without dissimulation or self seeking), generosity (copious bestowal), bountifulness, liberality, simplicity]; **the one who leads** [present middle participle; stand before, preside, practice, maintain, be over, rule], **with zeal** [speed, dispatch, eagerness, earnestness, business, earnest carefulness, diligence forwardness, haste]; **the one who does acts of mercy** [present active participle; have compassion on, have pity on, have mercy on, show mercy on; same word used in **Romans 9:15** (twice), **16, 18; 11:30, 31, 32**], **with cheerfulness** [*hilarotes*; alacrity, cheerfulness].

### Are there any repeated words?

Think, one, member, grace, many,

## What are some observations of the text?

**3 For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned** [This implies God gives us each different measures of faith—so we cannot be proud about what God has given out because we had nothing to do with it]. **4 For as in one body** [unity] **we have many members** [diversity], **and the members do not all have the same function** [unity and diversity working together—a small (and non-personal and completely insufficient) shadow of a concept at work in the Trinity—unity and diversity], **5 so we, though many, are one body in Christ** [this ‘one body’ concept obviously spans across local churches because Paul includes himself and he himself had never been to see them but included himself in their one body], **and individually members one of another** [universal body membership is explicitly called out here—and is the focus of the rest of the NT’s teaching on ‘member’ship]. **6 Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us** [again, we did not pick our gifts, but they were given to us—many truths can follow from this truth: (1) we should not be proud, (2) we should not look down on others, (3) we should not be jealous, (4) we should praise God for His wise choices, etc.], **let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; 7 if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; 8 the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.** [6-8 Note that this is not a comprehensive list of spiritual gifts (others are mentioned in other passages), so the point here may be to use what you’ve been given (as opposed to any serious doctrinal teaching on these as individual gifts)—I think much of the rest of Romans will be presented this way by Paul.]

## Apply (What is the point?)

1. **Thinking** matters (I didn’t pick the gift and I didn’t pick the degree). **Amy Valovcin: The title of this chapter is Renewed Thinking. Hughes discusses how we can take these few verses and "think rightly" about 1) Ourselves, 2) Fellow Believers, and 3) Our gifts.**
2. Different is **good** (I didn’t pick the gift and I didn’t pick the degree)
3. Gifts are for **using** (I didn’t pick the gift and I didn’t pick the degree)

## Personalize (What do we do with that?)

1. Stay **sober** (and lovingly let each other know when we’re not)
2. Praise God for **His** wisdom (think about the complexity of this design)
3. **Use** our gifts (and celebrate others’ usages of their gifts—no Admiral Akbar)

## Next week: Marks of the True Christian (12:9-21)

**9** Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. **10** Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. **11** Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. **12** Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. **13** Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

**14** Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. **15** Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. **16** Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. **17** Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. **18** If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. **19** Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." **20** To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." **21** Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

## Homework

Resources (our helps—order matters)

- Holy Spirit
- Bible: [Romans](#) (ESV)
- Church: [bit.ly/FlemingSS](http://bit.ly/FlemingSS)
- Tools: [bit.ly/romans2017](http://bit.ly/romans2017)

Our process

- Ask (the Holy Spirit for help)
- Read ([Romans](#))
- Talk (about [Romans](#)—[bit.ly/romans2017group](http://bit.ly/romans2017group))
- Send (feedback to [jim314@yahoo.com](mailto:jim314@yahoo.com) by Wed)

## Quotes & Observations

### Amy Valovcin (Hughes)

The title of this chapter is Renewed Thinking. Hughes discusses how we can take these few verses and "think rightly" about 1) Ourselves, 2) Fellow Believers, and 3) Our gifts.

He talks about Christ being our standard. When He is our standard our thinking should align with that standard. His people are there to help us as we journey through life together, which is why we should "think rightly" of ourselves and other believers.

Our gifts are from Him and should be used to glorify Him.

### Darla Skinner (Mounce)

Biblical leadership is essentially carried out for the benefit of others.

"Encouraging" translates the same verb . . . used in [12:1](#). Phillips calls the gift "the stimulating of the faith in others." Luther says that "teaching is means for the ignorant and exhortation for those who know" (*Commentary on the Epistles to the Romans*, trans. J. T. Mueller [Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1954], 156). Teaching, however, was not simply doctrinal instruction but included guidance in ethical conduct. Its goal should be a changed life as well as an informed mind. Jesus connected teaching and obedience ([Matt 28:20](#)). H. C. G. Moule insists that teaching "first passes through the teacher's own soul into his own life" before it is given to others (*The Epistle to the Romans* [London: Pickering & Inglis, n.d.] 324).

### McGarvey (Ironsides)

Through the rest of the chapter we have God's good will in regard to our relations, particularly to fellow believers.

Ironsides presents a case for the body of Christ in this context (with support from [1 Cor. 12:26](#)) meaning the suffering saints on earth, as opposed to views encompassing those who have already gone on to glory. Citing a regiment of Highlanders that had fought in the battle of Waterloo, though none of the men standing in formation before him had actually been in that battle, he writes, "So it is with the body of Christ on earth. Believers die and depart to be with Christ and join the choir invisible above. Others take their places here below, and thus the church continues from century to century."

Kind of like sunburns peeling, blood and bone cells being recycled, and skin regularly sloughing off and being replaced, it's the same body with different cells.